



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 13

Meeting Date: January 20, 2006

Meeting Location: Greene County DCS/DFR

Council Members Present:

Stephanie Raventos, Owen County Acting Director; Angie Baugh, Owen County Foster Parent; Beverly Haynes, Greene County CASA Director; Judge David Johnson, Greene County Juvenile Court; William Walker, Regional Manager for Region 13; Debbie Dailey, Brown County Director

Council Members Absent:

Judge David Welch, Monroe County Court; Lindsey Smith, Monroe County Director; Cheri Slover, Greene County Acting Director; Judge Andrea McCord, Lawrence County Court; Cami Terry, Lawrence County FCM

Others In Attendance:

Carol Phelps, Greene County FCM; Deborah Wessel, Lawrence County Supervisor; Greg Edie, Whites Family Services

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:00 a.m.

1. First Order of Business: Foster Parent Survey

Angie Baugh, Owen County Foster Parent, passed out a handout to everyone at the meeting regarding results of a Foster Parent Survey. Angie discussed the feedback that foster parents in Region 13 shared with her. The responses are a mixture of complaints and suggestions for improvement received from a number of Foster Parents from several counties. Bill Walker thanked Angie for her work on this project and stated it was well done. Bill Walker said he would like to meet with the Foster Parents. Angie said the Foster Parents didn't want to meet with anyone but the Regional Manager.

Foster Parents would like someone to advocate for them. They would like FCMs to call them in a timely manner, would like to evaluate FCMs as they feel FCMs have no one to answer to. Complaints of time frame for licensing. They would like a respite network available and have a buddy network. Bill Walker said that a lot of the comments mentioned there are already procedures or policies in place for and is just not being followed. Hopefully with a 12/17 caseload it will help out with some of these issues.

2. Second Order of Business: **DCS Total Budget Disbursement/2006 Fund Request**

Handouts were given.

Reviewed total budget disbursements from the Family and Children's Fund in 2004 and County levy for 2006.

Bill goes over the budget/tax levy handout with everyone present.

3. Third Order of Business: **RFP**

Discussed the process that the County Directors will follow in reviewing provider proposals and scoring. Reviewed spreadsheet that will reflect their selections and allocations per provider. RSC will review final summary next meeting for approval.

4. Fourth Order of Business: **Needs for Region 13**

Respite Services is not offered in every county. There is another respite program where it may be for more than just CHINS. If there is a need for a temporary placement until services may be put in the home, but they would be voluntarily placed. Would need to find an agency that would offer respite. It could be a group home or foster parents. The contract would be with an agency and they would pay the foster home or group home. May use for probation children or crisis situation, at the discretion of the parent. It would be a prevention. The same thing with respite may be for foster children if the foster parent needs respite. (IF a CHINS case they would have to notify the DCS.)

Child Advocacy Centers are also needed. They primarily deal with sex abuse and deal with forensic interviewing. Interviews conducted would consist of members from the Prosecutors Office, Law Enforcement, FCM

and a member of the Child Advocacy member that is trained on how to do forensic interviewing. In the future there will be a new RFP for Child Advocacy Centers.

Mentoring Programs would be good to have in our counties. Judge David Johnson said there is a need for a service to handle parents other than FCMs to help the parent understand where to go and what to do after court hearings and to help them understand what is being asked of them. So many times a common complaint is that no one told “me” how to do this or no one told me to do this or no one called and then 3 months later they have done nothing. Need for Parent Advocate.

Some Counties do have mediators for parents before they go to court. They come in and work out a dispo order and make sure they understand it and tell them what happens and what is going to happen. After court what ever the results are they come back to an assistant and they will go over it and say this is what is needed and they will call and set up things with them. It was done through a grant. IU students and School Social Workers are who is working with it, someone is over them and signs off on it. It is called facilitation instead of mediation. (Judge David Johnson said they should be trained.) They use this process for TPR cases. They use it to bring everyone together to let them know this is what is going to be done, but it is not to keep DCS from backing off from doing terminations. Debbie Dailey will bring information regarding facilitation. Judge David Johnson feels there is a fine line between coercion and facilitation. Judge Johnson thinks it sounds dangerous. Debbie Dailey said that it is requested by some Judges.

5. Fifth Order of Business: **Voluntary Services**

As of 9/1/06 DCS will no longer have Voluntary Services Cases.. The focus of FCM will be SRA, IA and CHINS. The vision is a community network partnership to help families with drug/alcohol services, car repairs, electric bills, etc.

As of 9/1/06 if a person is having issues, DCS will make a referral to the agency. and the agency would take it and monitor it. It doesn't have to be DCS referrals it can be anyone to walk in there and ask for services. The State has money to donate towards this from the Child Service Dollars. The agency would get paid once a month. At this time, DCS offices are taking care of the Voluntary Services. Each region is required to have this service. The reason for moving Voluntary Services to a provider is so FCMs can focus on the families that are involved with SRA, IA or CHINS cases. At

this time there have been no proposals regarding Community Partnership for Child Safety Child Service Dollars.

Judge Johnson questioned the liability issues. If DCS would not be liable for these services, who would be liable for these services since DCS is paying. Bill Walker said that the Child Welfare Service Dollars is actually State money made available for early intervention services.

6. Closing of the meeting:

Next meeting the council will be reviewing the RFPs and move to approve or deny recommendations.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:

February 17, 2006
Greene County DFR/DCS Office
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:00 p.m.